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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, source of inalienable rights and savior and protector of Your people, as the Nation is deeply moved to compassion for the people of the gulf coast region, the President of the United States has issued a proclamation: Tomorrow, Friday, September 16, 2005, will be considered a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Lord, we pray that Members of Congress, laying all political persuasion aside, will gather with their people over this coming weekend and be prayerfully united with those who have died, those who grieve over so many losses, and all who suffer because of this tragic event which has touched the soul of the South, so rich in spirituals, music, history, and gifted writers.

May You be praised, Lord, by all who gather this weekend in mosques, synagogues, churches, and homes to honestly pray for their brothers and sisters in need. May You be glorified in their glorious response of contributors of goods, money, and service, and by so many volunteers who wish to come to their aid.

May Your Holy Name be revered these days and for years to come by the perseverance of Americans, united to alleviate the suffering and build a future for the poor, the homeless, the jobless, and the widow and orphan.

This we pray now and forever. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con Res. 67. Concurrent resolution honoring the soldiers of the Army's Black Corps of Engineers for their contributions in constructing the Alaska-Canada highway during World War II and recognizing the importance of these contributions to the subsequent integration of the military.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain five requests for 1-minutes on each side.

### HURRICANE KATRINA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, many people have spent time since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast attempting to place blame on various agencies and elected officials. I would like to take a moment to focus instead on the positive developments that are occurring down there. Day by day, we are seeing improvements, both big and small.

After Katrina, 80 percent of New Orleans was covered in water; now the flood waters have receded to 30 percent

and are continuing to recede. Over the weekend, trash collection began in the city, and those who remained behind are already cleaning up their neighborhoods.

In Biloxi, Mississippi, the harbor opened for the first time since Katrina hit. The Coast Guard is now allowing limited commercial traffic, an important step in the recovery of the region. Utility companies are now reporting that around 131,000 homes and businesses are still without power, down from over 800,000.

I am hopeful that some of the other side of the aisle will set aside their partisan barbs and start focusing on the progress that is being made. Fingerprinting does not help the families who lost their homes or loved ones.

### INTRODUCING THE DISASTER PREPARATION AND LOCAL ACTION NOW ACT OF 2005

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina highlights the need for disaster preparedness. Across the country, everyone is asking: Are we prepared?

Every level of government is reexamining how we can make our communities more disaster resistant. In James Lee Witt's FEMA, we had a tool to make that happen: Project Impact. This proven program brought together local leaders, citizens, and businesses to prepare for and protect themselves against the worst that nature could throw at them; and at the Federal level funding worked to leverage support from private sources, multiplying their effectiveness.

Unfortunately, this administration unwisely tossed aside Project Impact and broke a model that had worked so well. Today, I will introduce legislation to bring Project Impact back to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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